ISSUE
010
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YOUR REGULAR SOURCE OF EVENTS, HAPPENINGS, AND INFORMATION

St. John's Today

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Celebrations

Spring is in the air. April showers and snows are here. It must be time for the celebration of new growth. In that light come out and join us for two celebrations of renewal: our Spring Tea on April 26th and the 175th Anniversary year Grand Finale on May 4th. Come out and celebrate together!!!

Happenings

Happenings around the parish.

- **Parish Council** Meetings –Apr. 9th and May 21st.
- **Keenagers** – 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, every month at 10 to 11 a.m. – Civitan Hall.
- **Spring Tea** – April 26th, Sip, Snack & Song @ 1:30, Parish Hall
- **Pray K7A** – April 27th @ 7:00 p.m. – Free Methodist Church, Smiths Falls.
- **Community Games Night** – May 2nd, Food @ 5:30, Games start 6:30.

If you have any events you would like to have posted here you can drop us a line at:

stjohns.smithsfalls@gmail.com

"Events" in the title.

Christ's Journey

As we enter Holy Week and the joy and renewal that Easter brings, it is fitting we remember and acknowledge the many key events that lead to the pivotal moment of the Christian faith. Jesus did not just walk up and throw himself upon the cross. He worked his way through a journey.

This was not a trek through the wilderness as before he started his ministry. This was a journey of mind, body, and spirit to establish the foundation of the church. Much of the week before became the necessary catalyst for the crucifixion. From his return to the city, through his final week of teachings in the temple, and the preparations for his own death, Jesus was fulfilling prophecy, setting forth examples to live by, and setting the stage for what was to come.

When Jesus returned to Jerusalem from his teachings abroad, he did not enter the city as he had in the past, humbly and without notice. Rather the prophecy foretold in Zechariah 9 was fulfilled. He entered the city hailed as a king, as the messiah, yet riding on a donkey. This less than subtle entrance was a wakeup call, signaling to the world he was the Messiah.

(continue on Pg. 2 – the journey continues)

Finding Joy in the Resurrection

On Good Friday we mourn the death of Christ and we honour his sacrifice. On the third day, on Easter we celebrate!!! We take joy in the resurrection of Christ! Alleluia!!

But what is this joy? Why are we celebrating? Following Jesus' death and internment there is much to remember. So much of what transpired became the foundation of the next evolution of our faith, from Judaism to Christianity.

"Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen." – Matthew 28:5-6

With these words, the two Marys witnessed the truth and the miracle of the resurrection. As was foretold in Isaiah 53 and Psalm 16, Christ the Saviour was restored. He arose from the dead. And as Isaiah 53 also states, "He took up our pain and bore our suffering." "He bore the punishment for mankind's sins,' Hebrews 9:28.

Through the crucifixion and Jesus' resurrection we find redemption and forgiveness. It symbolizes hope, a new life,

(continue on Pg. 3 – Joy)

Embracing the Journey of Faith

The Triduum, a period of three days beginning with Maundy Thursday and culminating on Easter Sunday, is the most solemn and significant time in the Christian liturgical calendar. Echoing many experiences in human life, this sacred period invites believers to journey through the profound emotions and events, the journey through darkness into light, that define the final moments of Jesus' earthly life.

Maunday Thursday and Good Friday are days marked by fear, betrayal, grief, sorrow, suffering and death. On Maunday Thursday, we witness the Last Supper, where Jesus institutes the Eucharist, gives the "New Commandment", and washes the feet of his disciples. Yet, this night also brings the anxious agony in the Garden of Gethsemane and Judas' betrayal with a kiss. Good Friday follows with the harrowing trial, the denial of Peter, the crucifixion and death of Jesus; a day enveloped in profound fear, pain, sorrow, and mourning.

It is essential to pass through these dark and challenging experiences, for they are integral to understanding the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The Resurrection is not merely a joyful event; it is the triumph of God over all that would betray and refute God; life over death, hope over despair, love over hatred, grace over betrayal. By traveling through the pain and suffering of the Triduum, we can journey with Jesus through the profound significance and transformative power of his resurrection on Easter morning from his despair, fear, and sorrow leading up to it. The Triduum reveals that faith, perseverance, and grace allow us to emerge renewed and uplifted to new life in Jesus Christ. *(T. Brauer)*

Vestry has spoken.

Meet our newest Parish Councilors at Large.

Jessica Coughlan

Chris Elmsley

Cindy Penman

Our thanks to those who've moved on…

The Journey Continues

(continued from page 1 – Journey)

Next Jesus cleared the way both figuratively and realistically as he cast out the moneychangers and the merchants from the temple.

With the temple cleansed, Jesus set forth many teachings in the form of parables. Through these lessons he showed his followers the ways of the Lord.

Several of these parables were also raising the attention and ire of the temple leadership. They were also disturbed by the attention and adoration Jesus was getting. When they questioned his authority, he shamed them. This set into motion the path to his death.

On the evening before his trial Jesus readied himself for what was coming. Mary anointed him and he acknowledged she was preparing him for his passing.

The Last Supper was an opportunity to set an example and to establish a memorial. He washed the feet of his followers showing their ministry would be one of servitude. He used common items in bread and wine setting the sacrament by which he would still be remembered over 2 centuries later.

The last steps of his preparation journey cleared his soul in Gethsemane. Journey complete. He was ready. *(D. Willis)*

Last Supper – Jon McNaughton

The Grand Finale is Coming!!

"A Festival of Music…revisited! In celebration of our 150th anniversary, St. John's hosted this ecumenical event, filling our halls with joyful sounds and a boisterous audience. What better way to acknowledge another astounding milestone, 175 years of worship and service, than with a repeat performance.

Plans for "A Festival of Music (2.0)" are coming together nicely! This no-cost event, sponsored by St. John's Music Ministry Team, will take place Sunday, May 4th, beginning at 1:30 p.m. We are excited to announce that groups of singers and musicians from area churches and the broader community are joining us in thanksgiving for the historical and ongoing vitality of this parish.

Please plan to attend what promises to be an uplifting time of praise and song as we celebrate not only ourselves, but also those friends beyond our walls who will be giving so freely of their time to support us. Arrive early for a seat. Be sure to join us for fellowship and refreshments afterwards.

(K. Bryan)

(continued from page 1 – Joy)

and the triumph over death. On Easter we celebrate the promise of eternal life and the forgiveness of sins.

Shortly after his resurrection Jesus came to his disciples and gave them their great commission. “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” – *Matthew 28:18-19.*

The Christian church, the Gospel, and evangelism were born.

So too can we celebrate the spreading of God’s word!

Yes, it could be argued that was what Jesus himself had been doing during his ministry. But Christ’s sacrifice, the sacrifice of God in the form of his only begotten son, became a more powerful message. More powerful still this was God’s first-born dying for our freedom, on Passover, mirroring Exodus.

“… who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.” –
Galatians 1: 3-4

It gave the ministry momentum beyond Jesus as a prophet. The apostles did as they were told.

The message went out far and wide more than two thousand years ago.

Gentiles and Jews alike believed. Even the mighty Roman empire could not suppress the groundswell that bloomed from those early roots of Christianity.

All this from the humble son of a carpenter who gave his life for us all. Because he followed in the wishes of God the Father and arose again, also for us all.

What is the joy of Easter? It is the Joy of God’s word here on earth, the Joy of Forgiveness and Salvation from sin, the Joy of Eternal life in Jesus and in God’s Love. Rejoice in the renewal life! *(D. Willis)*

Women At the Feet of Jesus

Several women were significant followers of Jesus, including Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and Mary, mother of James, who actively supported Jesus' ministry. They traveled with Jesus and His disciples and were included in the daily care of their Lord and present at His teachings.

Perhaps the most famous of the women followers is Mary Magdalene. According to Mark 15:40, and others, she was one of the women who remained at Jesus's crucifixion. The New Testament says she saw Jesus laid in a tomb. Mark 16:9 reports that after his resurrection, Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene. The New Testament also says that Jesus had cast seven demons out of her.

Mary, mother of James, is identified in the synoptic gospels as one of the women who went to Jesus' tomb after he was buried.

Salome, the mother of James and John, was likely the sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and accompanied Jesus and his disciples, ministering to their needs.

Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, was a devoted follower of Jesus, known for her attentiveness to Jesus, sitting at His feet as He taught at their home while Martha busied herself with food preparation, and her act of anointing him.

These women followed Jesus, cared for His needs, stayed at the foot of the cross as He suffered and died for us. They did not desert Him. His mother Mary was also there because Jesus referred to her, asking John to take care of her. Most of the other male disciples had left. Blessed was their love and dedication. *(C. Kerfoot)*

The Women

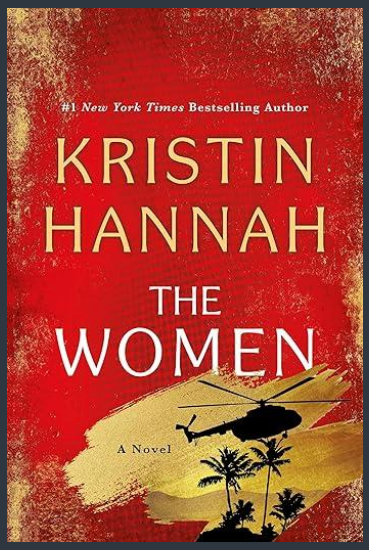
Authored by Kristin Hannah

A completely fictional account of an army nurse during and following the Vietnam War.

International Women’s Day was March 8th. It is an opportune time to honour them.

This novel shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm’s way and whose sacrifice and commitment are too often dismissed or forgotten.

Available on Amazon.ca and on Indigo.ca *(C. Kerfoot)*



Gethsemane

How Would You Do?

Gethsemane, from the Hebrew (gat shemanim), means “oil press”. The Garden of Gethsemane was the pressing ground for the olive grove on the Mount of Olives. Where Jesus, the Son of God showed a most human side and his holiness at the same time.

Jesus knew what was coming when he reached Gethsemane. He knew and he agonized at the daunting task before him. In an all too human way, in Matthew 26: 36-46 Jesus was looking to be relieved of his burden. Three times he prayed that he might be spared. Three times also did he pray that he would do his father’s will. Three times the task remained with Jesus and he accepted the role set upon him.

Consider the strength Jesus showed in keeping to the anointed path. He knew the suffering he would soon endure. Consider the love Jesus showed for us as he willingly submitted himself as a sacrifice for our sins.

In his despair, his strength, his love, and his sacrifice Jesus, God made man, knew and demonstrated all to well what it was to be human. Yet, to our salvation he percevered. Even as his disciples made ready to take up arms and defend him, Jesus stepped in ready to carry his burden.

In Gethsemane, Jesus shared his humanity. But his will and strength showed us his divinity. *(D. Willis)*

Upcoming Events

- **Parish Council Meetings.**
  Next council meeting is Wednesday, April 9th at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. In April, the meeting will be on Wednesday, May 21st at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

- **Food Bank Baskets.**
  Every third Sunday of the month, we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items for the food bank. Please leave your contributions in the baskets at the base of the chancel steps.

- **Keenagers.**
  Hosted by the First Baptist Church, this is a fellowship time of prayer, scripture reading, music and guest speakers for individuals 55+. The Smiths Falls Civitan Club. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 10 a.m.-11am. All are welcome. Anyone needing a ride may contact Eric Wills 613-283-7007.

- **175th Anniversary Events – Social Tea**
  Spring Tea! Come out and Sip, Snack, and Sing – To be held April 26th, 2025, starting at 1:30 in the Upper Parish Hall.

- **Pray K7A.**
  On the last Sunday of each month, the local Christian community gathers together for shared fellowship and prayers. It will be held on April 27th starting at 7 p.m. at Free Methodist Church, 573 County Rd 29, Smiths Falls, ON K7A 4S5.

- **Games Night.**
  Games nights happen regularly each month, starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The next games night is on Friday, May 2nd, starting with food at 5:30 and games at 6:30 p.m.

- **175th Anniversary Events – Anniversary Finale.**
  The 175th Anniversary Grand Finale Event – Date May 4th, a free celebration and concert, featuring musical talent from across the community. At St. John’s Anglican Church, 2 George St. S., beginning at 1:30. Refreshments follow in the Upper Hall.

- **Future Editions.**
  May 2025 – 175th Anniversary Finale Edition and more.

- **Mens Cursillo Weekend.**
  A weekend retreat with a focus on Christian Living. If you desire to live y our faith in the world around you, Cursillo may be right for you. See Trish Warren for details - Date May 9-11th.

Times of Worship:

Sundays:
- 8 a.m. spoken eucharist.
- 10 a.m. sung eucharist.

Holy Week:
- Palm Sunday
  - 10 a.m. starts in Upper Hall
- Monday
  - 7 p.m.
- Tuesday
  - 7 p.m.
- Wednesday,
  - 10 a.m.
  - 7 p.m.
- Maunday Thursday
  - 7 p.m.
  - Upper Hall
- Good Friday
  - 10 a.m.
- Good Friday Ecumenical Walk
  - Noon @ St. Francis de Sales
- Saturday Vigil
  - 7:30 p.m.

Parish Office:
- 9 a.m. to noon, weekdays (613)283-1261

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Disclaimer: The thoughts and opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors and are not meant to represent the views or positions of the Parish of St. Johns or the Anglican Church of Canada.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
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